23

received the DATA frame sends back the ACK frame to the AP1 (step S105).

    On the other hand, the AP2 having received the CTS frame from the STA3 in the processing at step S102 is

5 turned to the transmission-suspended state according to the NAV (step S103). Therefore, as shown in Fig. 13 for example, even when having received the RTS frame from the STA4 (step S106), the AP2 cannot send back the CTS frame to the STA4 (step S107). Since the CTS frame is not sent back

10 to the STA4 even after the predetermined time has passed, the STA4 retransmits the RTS frame (step S108). Since the AP2 is still in the transmission-suspended state, the AP2 cannot send back the CTS frame to the STA4 as in the last occasion (step S109).

15   In the sixth embodiment, when the number of retransmission reaches two, the STA4 temporarily stores the DATA frame for the AP2, for example, in a predetermined buffer (step S110). While an example in which the number of retransmission is two is explained in the sixth

20 embodiment, the number of retransmission is not limited to two. Furthermore, if there is DATA for another radio terminal or the base station, the communication with the other radio terminal or base station can be carried out preferentially.

25   Since the AP2 is in the transmission-suspended state (step S103), even when having received the RTS frame from the STA5 (step S111), the AP2 cannot send back the CTS frame to the STA5 (step S112). Since the CTS frame is not sent back to the STA5 even after the predetermined time has

30 passed, the STA4 retransmits the RTS frame (step S113). The AP2 cannot send back the CTS frame to the STA5 as in the last occasion, since it is still in the transmission-suspended state (step S114).